

26, and 39-40 in no way evidences any intent on Applicants' part to abandon the subject matter of those claims and, indeed, Applicants may choose to pursue claims of lesser, greater, or similar scope and subject matter in subsequent applications claiming the priority of the present application.

The Claim Objections - Informalities

Applicants have amended the claims consistent with the changes suggested by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully submit that the objected-to informalities have been remedied.

The Objected-To Claims Describing Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 3, 4, 23-25, 27-38 and 41-42 which describe allowable subject matter, have been amended to recite substantially each limitation of the rejected base claims from which claims 3, 4, 23-25, 27-38, and 41-42 originally depended.

The Examiner will note that instead of incorporating the limitations of claim 1 into a word-for-word version of claim 4 the Applicants removed the word "partial" from the original language of claim 4. The Examiner will note further that the Applicants, in incorporating the limitations of claim 22 into each of claims 23, 25, 27-32, and 34-37, have removed the term "partial" and the term "temperature controlled" (lacking antecedent basis) from the language of original claim 22. It is believed that none of the changes to claims 4, 23-25, 27-32 and 34-37 have affected the allowability of claims 4, 23-25, 27-32 and 34-37 in that claims 4, 23-25, 27-32, and 34-37, as slightly amended, remain novel and not obvious over the cited prior art.

The Applicants have also amended claims 28, 29, 34, and 35 to correct for minor informalities.

Regarding the objection to claim 41 under 37 CFR 1.83(a) (flattened conductor housing element stated not to be shown in the drawings), the Examiner in a telephone interview with Applicants' attorney George Blasiak dated September 10, 2002, stated that the objection would be overcome if the Applicants demonstrated that the flattened conductor housing feature is in fact shown in the drawings. The Examiner's attention is directed to Fig. 1a, copy attached hereto. It is clearly seen with reference to Fig. 1a that on surface 31 the housings of the conductors 21, 21' and 21" are integrated together to form a common housing. The common housing incorporating the respective housings of conductors 21, 21' and 21"

orients the respective housings so that the respective housings lie generally in a common plane that is generally parallel to surface 31. Because the common housing orients the respective housings so that the respective housings lie in a common plane, the common housing has a shorter height than it would have had in the case that the common housing oriented the respective housings in, for example, a bundled arrangement. The claimed feature of a conductor including a flattened conductor housing is therefore clearly shown in the drawings.

The New, Dependent Claims

Applicants also have submitted claims 43-224 which are new dependent claims that each depend directly from allowed claims 3, 4, 8, 23-25, and 27-35, and thus also are allowable. New dependent claims 43-224 are believed to be allowable, at least for the reason that they depend from an allowable base claim and for the further reason that it is believed that each new dependent claim recites at least one patentably significant element. Each of new claims 43-224 is fully supported by the specification and drawings of the application, and therefore, no new matter has been added by way of submission of new claims 43-224.

The Examiner will note that a large number (181) of dependent claims have been added. In the Office Action of June 11, 2002, the Examiner indicated that a total of 16 dependent claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. By converting each of the indicated-allowable claims into independent form, the Applicants have created 16 new independent claims. The application now includes 17 independent claims, 13 more than the originally submitted 4 independent claims. It is to be stressed that the Applicants' adding of numerous dependent claims is not rooted in an effort to burden or inconvenience the Examiner. The Applicants have added a large number of independent claims merely so that the application would include dependent claims dependent on each of several of the large number of different independent claims created as a result of rewriting several dependent claims into independent form.

The Amendments To The Written Description and Drawings

Applicants have amended the title, and have amended the abstract per the objection of the Examiner. None of the amendments to the specification add new matter.

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant believes all of

the claims of the present application to be in condition for allowance and respectfully requests reconsideration and passage to allowance of the application

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned **"Version with markings to show changes made."**

If the Examiner believes that contact with Applicants' attorney would be advantageous toward the disposition of this case, the Examiner is herein requested to call Applicants' attorney at the phone number noted below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0289.

Respectfully submitted,

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

"VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE."

In the Specification:

Please delete the title on page 1, line 1 in its entirety and replace with the following new title:

--System for Monitoring Sensing Device Data Such as Food Sensing Device Data--

Please delete the Abstract on page 35, line 1 in its entirety and replace with the following rewritten Abstract:

--A monitoring system particularly useful for monitoring food located at one or a plurality of food serving or storage location includes a sensing subsystem and a processing subsystem. The sensing subsystem may include at least one sensing device and the processing subsystem may include a personal computer. The processing subsystem may be adapted to encrypt received data to the end that data stored in memory is substantially impervious to data tampering.--

In the Claims:

Please amend claim 3 as follows:

3. (Amended) [The monitoring system of claim 1,] A monitoring system comprising: a sensing subsystem having at least one sensing device for generating at least one data stream; and

a processing subsystem for receiving and processing said data stream, and said processing subsystem including a memory, said processing subsystem adapted to encrypt said at least one data stream to form an encrypted data stream corresponding to said at least one data stream, and being further adapted to write said encrypted data stream to said memory,

wherein said processing subsystem is adapted to read said encrypted data from said memory, and to decrypt said encrypted data while reading said encrypted data.

Please amend claim 4 as follows:

4. (Amended) [The monitoring system of claim 1,] A monitoring system comprising: a sensing subsystem having at least one sensing device for generating at least one data

stream; and

a processing subsystem for receiving and processing said data stream, said processing subsystem including a memory, said processing subsystem adapted to encrypt said at least one data stream to form an encrypted data stream corresponding to said at least one data stream, and being further adapted to write said encrypted data stream to said memory,

wherein said at least one sensing device is a probe device adapted for [partial] insertion into food.

Please amend claim 5 as follows:

5. [Amended] The monitoring system of claim [1] 4, wherein said sensing subsystem includes a transmitter for transmitting said at least one data stream, and wherein said processing subsystem includes a receiver for receiving said at least one data stream.

Please amend claim 6 as follows:

6. (Amended) The monitoring system of claim [1] 4, wherein said at least one sensing device includes a temperature sensor and a battery, and wherein said at least one data stream includes data pertaining to said temperature sensor and data pertaining to a power level of said battery.

Please amend claim 7 as follows:

7. (Amended) The monitoring system of claim [1] 4, wherein said processing subsystem is adapted to at least one of either date stamp or time stamp said data stream.

Please amend claim 8 as follows

8. (Amended) A monitoring system for monitoring food located at least one [a] food serving or storage location[s], said monitoring system comprising:

a sensing subsystem including at least one temperature sensing device for generating at least one data stream, said at least one temperature sensing device adapted to be [partially] disposed in food at said food serving or storage location; and

a processing subsystem for receiving and processing said data stream, said processing subsystem including a memory, said processing subsystem adapted to encrypt said at least one data stream to form an encrypted data stream corresponding to said at least one data stream,

and being further adapted to write said encrypted data stream to said memory.

Please amend claim 11 as follows:

11. (Not Amended) The monitoring system of claim 8, wherein said at least one sensing device is a probe device adapted for partial insertion into food.

Please amend claim 12 as follows:

12. (Amended) The monitoring system of claim 8, wherein said at least one sensing device is a probe device adapted for partial insertion into food, said probe device including:
a housing;
[en] an elongated pin section extending from said housing; and
a sensing element completely disposed in, and encapsulated by said elongated pin section.

Please amend claim 20 as follows:

20. (Amended) The monitoring system of claim 8, wherein said sensing subsystem includes a sensing apparatus for sensing characteristics of food stored in a plurality of food serving or storage containers, said sensing apparatus comprising:
a central transmitter; and
a plurality of probes, each probe being adapted for partial disposal in one of said containers, said each of said probes being hard-wired to [a] said central transmitter adapted to transmit data from each of said plurality of probes.

Please cancel claim 22 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend claim 23 as follows:

23. (Amended) [The monitoring system of claim 22,] A monitoring system for monitoring food stored in at least one serving or storage container, said monitoring system comprising:
a sensing subsystem including at least one sensing device for generating at least one data stream, said at least one sensing device adapted to be disposed in food of said at least

one serving or storage container; and

a processing subsystem for receiving and processing said data stream,

wherein said at least one sensing device includes a temperature sensor and a battery, and wherein said at least one data stream of said device includes data corresponding to said temperature sensor, and data corresponding to a power level of said battery.

Please amend claim 24 as follows:

24. (Amended) [The monitoring system of claim 22,] A monitoring system for monitoring food stored in at least one serving or storage container, said monitoring system comprising:

a sensing subsystem including at least one sensing device for generating at least one data stream, said at least one sensing device adapted to be disposed in food of said at least one serving or storage container; and

a processing subsystem for receiving and processing said data stream,

wherein said at least one sensing device includes a temperature sensor and a battery, wherein said at least one data stream of said device includes data corresponding to said temperature sensor, and data corresponding to power level of said battery, wherein said processing subsystem includes a display, and wherein said processing subsystem is adapted to output on said display graphical indicia indicating both a temperature and a battery level associated with said at least one sensing device.

Please amend claim 25 as follows:

25. (Amended) [The monitoring system of claim 22,] A monitoring system for monitoring food stored in at least one serving or storage container, said monitoring system comprising:

a sensing subsystem including at least one sensing device for generating at least one data stream, said at least one sensing device adapted to be disposed in food of said at least one serving or storage container; and

a processing subsystem for receiving and processing said data stream,

wherein said at least one sensing device includes a temperature sensor and a battery, wherein said at least one data stream of said device includes data corresponding to said

temperature sensor, data corresponding to power level of said battery, and data corresponding to an identifier of said device.

Please amend claim 27 as follows:

27. (Amended) [The monitoring system of claim 22,] A monitoring system for monitoring food stored in at least one serving or storage container, said monitoring system comprising:

a sensing subsystem including at least one sensing device for generating at least one data stream, said at least one sensing device adapted to be disposed in food of said at least one serving or storage container; and

a processing subsystem for receiving and processing said data stream,

wherein said processing subsystem is adapted to at least one of either date stamp or time stamp said data stream.

Please amend claim 28 as follows:

28. (Amended) [The monitoring system of claim 22,] A monitoring system for monitoring food stored in at least one serving or storage container, said monitoring system comprising:

a sensing subsystem including at least one sensing device for generating at least one data stream, said at least one sensing device adapted to be disposed in food of said at least one serving or storage container; and

a processing subsystem for receiving and processing said data stream,

wherein said processing subsystem includes a memory having an indexed hierarchical data storage, and wherein said processing subsystem is adapted to encrypt said data stream and write said encrypted data stream to said hierarchical data storage structure.

Please amend claim 29 as follows:

29. (Amended) [The monitoring system of claim 22,] A monitoring system for monitoring food stored in at least one serving or storage container, said monitoring system comprising:

a sensing subsystem including at least one sensing device for generating at least one

data stream, said at least one sensing device adapted to be disposed in food of said at least one serving or storage container; and

a processing subsystem for receiving and processing said data stream,

wherein said processing subsystem includes a memory having an indexed hierarchical data storage structure including at least one device index tree indexed by a device identifier and by date stamp data, and wherein said processing subsystem is adapted to encrypt said data stream and write said encrypted data stream to said indexed hierarchical data storage structure indexed by said device identifier and by said date stamp data.

Please amend claim 31 as follows:

31. (Amended) [The monitoring system of claim 22,] A monitoring system for monitoring food stored in at least one serving or storage container, said monitoring system comprising:

a sensing subsystem including at least one sensing device for generating at least one data stream, said at least one sensing device adapted to be disposed in food of said at least one serving or storage container; and

a processing subsystem for receiving and processing said data stream,

wherein said processing subsystem includes a memory, said processing subsystem adapted to encrypt said at least one data stream to form an encrypted data stream, and being further adapted to write said encrypted data stream to said memory.

Please amend claim 32 as follows:

32. (Amended) [The monitoring system of claim 22,] A monitoring system for monitoring food stored in at least one serving or storage container, said monitoring system comprising:

a sensing subsystem including at least one sensing device for generating at least one data stream, said at least one sensing device adapted to be disposed in food of said at least one serving or storage container; and

a processing subsystem for receiving and processing said data stream,

wherein said processing subsystem includes a receiver, a processor, and a memory, wherein said receiver is configured to encode said at least one data stream to create an

encoded data stream, and wherein said processing subsystem is further adapted to decode said encoded data stream.

Please amend claim 34 as follows:

34. (Amended) [The monitoring system of claim 22,] A monitoring system for monitoring food stored in at least one serving or storage container, said monitoring system comprising:

a sensing subsystem including at least one sensing device for generating at least one data stream, said at least one sensing device adapted to be disposed in food of said at least one serving or storage container; and

a processing subsystem for receiving and processing said data stream,

wherein said sensing subsystem is adapted so that sensing devices can be added to or deleted from said sensing subsystem, wherein said processing subsystem includes a display and a memory, wherein said processing system is adapted to output on said display graphical indicia indicating each of said sensing devices which has been connected to said system.

Please amend claim 35 as follows:

35. (Amended) [The monitoring system of claim 22,] A monitoring system for monitoring food stored in at least one serving or storage container, said monitoring system comprising:

a sensing subsystem including at least one sensing device for generating at least one data stream, said at least one sensing device adapted to be disposed in food of said at least one serving or storage container; and

a processing subsystem for receiving and processing said data stream,

wherein said at least one sensing device comprises a plurality of sensing devices currently logging data, wherein said processing subsystem includes a display and a memory, and wherein said processing system is adapted to output on said display graphical indicia indicating each of said sensing devices which is currently logging data.

Please amend claim 36 as follows:

36. (Amended) [The monitoring system of claim 22,] A monitoring system for

monitoring food stored in at least one serving or storage container, said monitoring system comprising:

a sensing subsystem including at least one sensing device for generating at least one data stream, said at least one sensing device adapted to be disposed in food of said at least one serving or storage container; and

a processing subsystem for receiving and processing said data stream,

wherein said processing subsystem includes a display and a memory, wherein said processing system is adapted to execute a polling routine wherein said processing subsystem analyzes the content of data in said memory to determine the identity of each sensing device included in said system, and to determine which of said sensing devices are currently logging data, wherein said processing subsystem is adapted to output on said display graphical indicia responsive to said polling routine indicating each of said sensing devices which has been connected to said system, and to further output on said display a logging icon for each device which is currently logging data.

Please amend claim 37 as follows:

37. (Amended) [The monitoring system of claim 22,] A monitoring system for monitoring food stored in at least one serving or storage container, said monitoring system comprising:

a sensing subsystem including at least one sensing device for generating at least one data stream, said at least one sensing device adapted to be at least partially disposed in food of said at least one serving or storage container; and

a processing subsystem for receiving and processing said data stream,

wherein said sensing subsystem includes a sensing apparatus for sensing characteristics of food stored in a plurality of food serving or storage containers, said sensing apparatus comprising:

a central transmitter; and

a plurality of probes, each probe being adapted for partial disposal in one of said containers, said each of said probes being hard-wired to a central transmitter adapted to transmit data from each of said plurality of probes.

38. (Not Amended) The monitoring system of claim 37, further comprising:
a member supporting at least one of said plurality of food storage containers; and
at least one conductor forming said hard-wire connection between said at least one of
said probes and said transmitter, said conductor being secured to said member so that said
conductor is minimally obtrusive to a food service agent serving food.

Claims 39 and 40 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend claim 41 as follows:

41. (Amended) [The monitoring system of claim 40,] A sensing apparatus for
sensing characteristics of food stored in a plurality of food serving or storage containers, said
sensing apparatus comprising:

a central transmitter;

a plurality of probes, each probe being adapted for partial disposal in one of said
containers, said each of said probes being hard-wired to a central transmitter adapted to
transmit data from each of said plurality of probes;

a member supporting at least one of said plurality of food storage containers; and
at least one conductor forming said hard-wire connection between said at least one of
said probes and said transmitter, said conductor being secured to said member so that said
conductor is minimally obtrusive to a food service agent serving food,

wherein said at least one conductor secured to said member includes a flattened
conductor housing.

Please amend claim 42 as follows:

42. (Amended) [The monitoring system of claim 39,] A sensing apparatus for
sensing characteristics of food stored in a plurality of food serving or storage containers, said
sensing apparatus comprising:

a central transmitter;

a plurality of probes, each probe being adapted for partial disposal in one of said
containers, said each of said probes being hard-wired to a central transmitter adapted to
transmit data from each of said plurality of probes; and

[further comprising] a sensing element, wherein at least one of said probes includes an

elongated pin section housing for disposal in a food product, said elongated pin section substantially completely encapsulating said sensing element.